

RE: Truck blockade impacting supply of meat

From: "Cohen, Alexander" <alexander.cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>
To: "Harb, Abed" <abed.harb@agr.gc.ca>, "Chughtai, Ayesha" <ayesha.chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Caldwell, Rebecca" <rebecca.caldwell@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: "Kurusamy, Gowthaman" <gowthaman.kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Wagner, Elise" <elise.wagner@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Chalke, Allie" <allie.chalke@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Horonowitsch, Emily" <emily.horonowitsch@ps-sp.gc.ca>, Ninu Forrest <ninu.forrest@tc.gc.ca>, "Power, Mary-Liz" <mary-liz.power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Habert, Andie" <andie.habert@ps-sp.gc.ca>
Date: Tue, 01 Feb 2022 00:59:18 +0000

Logistically, the issue is that the stretch road on the Canadian side just north of the border (Highway 4) is being blocked by the protesters. The crossing itself is okay so CBSA can't do much other than direct people to other crossings (unfortunately there aren't many in the area, especially ones that are open 24/7.) Given that the Canadian side is blocked, the Americans are now not letting people continue north. Strictly speaking, this is a provincial issue and the Alberta government has the tools it needs to clear the blockades and says it will (especially given the anti-blockade bill that the UCP government brought in.) My understanding is that the RCMP are trying to negotiate with the protesters (in this case the RCMP are acting as provincial police in Alberta, so we're one step removed) -- I've asked for an update.

From a comms perspective, we've opted not to say much to avoid drawing more attention to the situation (which has been largely overshadowed by the protests in Ottawa.) That said, that may have run its course and something public isn't a bad idea if others are in favour.

-----Original Message-----

From: Harb, Abed <abed.harb@agr.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 5:49 PM
To: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Caldwell, Rebecca <Rebecca.Caldwell@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Wagner, Elise <Elise.Wagner@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Chalke, Allie <Allie.Chalke@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Horonowitsch, Emily <Emily.Horonowitsch@PS-SP.GC.CA>; Ninu Forrest <ninu.forrest@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Truck blockade impacting supply of meat

I am sure having trucks in Ottawa doesn't help the feed supply challenges that farmers in the West are facing, but I wouldn't connect the two. 99% of the problem is because of rail delays.

More about the blockade in this article.

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/protesters-ignore-rcmp-warnings-southern-alberta-border-crossing-blockaded-by-convoy-for-third-day>

Abed Harb

-----Original Message-----

From: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Sent: January 31, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Caldwell, Rebecca <Rebecca.Caldwell@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Harb, Abed

<abed.harb@agr.gc.ca>; Wagner, Elise <Elise.Wagner@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Chalke, Allie <Allie.Chalke@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Horonowitsch, Emily <Emily.Horonowitsch@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Ninu Forrest <ninu.forrest@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Truck blockade impacting supply of meat

Adding from transport too.

Is there thoughts on any public communications between this trio of Ministers? Ag-transport-public safety?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 31, 2022, at 5:25 PM, Caldwell, Rebecca <Rebecca.Caldwell@pmo-cpm.gc.ca> wrote:
>
> Wondering, too, if any of the cattle feed distribution difficulties Alberta farmers are experiencing could be traced to truckers not actually on the road but in Ottawa...
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>
> Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 5:13 PM
> To: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Harb, Abed <abed.harb@agr.gc.ca>
> Cc: Caldwell, Rebecca <Rebecca.Caldwell@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Wagner, Elise <Elise.Wagner@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Chalke, Allie <Allie.Chalke@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Horonowitsch, Emily <Emily.Horonowitsch@PS-SP.GC.CA>
> Subject: RE: Truck blockade impacting supply of meat
>
> Adding Emily from CBSA perspective and Alex from Comms.
>
> Gowthaman Kurusamy
> Director of Operations | Directeur des opérations Office of the Minister of Public Safety | Cabinet du ministre de la Sécurité publique Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca
> C: (Irre) Irrel Irrel
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
> Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 5:12 PM
> To: Harb, Abed <abed.harb@agr.gc.ca>
> Cc: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Caldwell, Rebecca <Rebecca.Caldwell@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Wagner, Elise <Elise.Wagner@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Chalke, Allie <Allie.Chalke@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
> Subject: Re: Truck blockade impacting supply of meat
>
> Bringing this back up.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jan 31, 2022, at 1:50 PM, Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca> wrote:
>
>
> Hey Abed,
>
> Adding a few folks from PS and my office.
>
> Gowthaman have you heard anything from CBSA on this front or the RCMP? Anything you can share with the team?
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> I think this is huge, and something we should be quite vocal about and quantify what this means for supply chain especially in the context of the summit that is occurring right now.

>

> Ayesha Chughtai (she/her/elle)

> C:[Irrelevant]

>

> From: Harb, Abed <abed.harb@agr.gc.ca>

> Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 1:47 PM

> To: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

> Subject: Truck blockade impacting supply of meat

> Importance: High

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>

> Hey Ayesha,

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>

> I received a text (below) from the Canadian Meat Council regarding a truck blockade at Alberta/US boarder delaying over 150 meat trucks. If it continues, it will for sure affect supply chain and availability of meat.

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> Irony how the protestors complain that vaccines requirements are causing food shortages (when they are not), yet their protest is directly impacting the supply of food. Maybe something we can take a strong position against. I think this is an interesting opportunity for us.

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> Also, do you know what I can share with CMC regarding what the federal government is doing/considering? Would this be public safety? If so, do you have a contact there?

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> Jason Kenny tweeted about it as well.

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> [cid:image001.png@01D816A9.92D227C0]

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> Abed Harb

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Abed Harb <[Irrelevant]> <mailto:[Irrelevant]>>

> Sent: January 31, 2022 11:34 AM

> To: Abed Harb <Abed.Harb@canada.ca> <mailto:Abed.Harb@canada.ca>>

> Subject: CMC

>

>

>

> Afternoon Abed.
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>
> Any update or direction on what government is doing at Coutts?
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>
> Between JBS and Cargill they have 150 trucks stuck in the blockage.
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> \$ being lost.
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> Will for sure affect supply chain and likely both will reduce capacity at plants as a result.
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> Getting a number of calls and being asked what, if anything government is doing.
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> Anything you can share because not tenable as you can appreciate.
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>
>
> Tks.
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>
>
> Chris
>
>
>
> Abed Harb